



Examples of Past Professional Fellows On-Demand Projects

Digital Communication Network (DCN)

To meet an urgent policy priority of R and EUR, this exchange program is for prominent journalists, communications specialists and opinion leaders from Europe and Central Asia, including participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine, who face challenging work environments and changing digital landscapes, often dominated by foreign government-sponsored news organizations.

Activities: During an exchange in the U.S. in fall 2015, the 24 participants explored new tools and trends in digital communication, attended the annual conference of the Online News Association in Los Angeles, assessed different facets of communication and the impact of information technology, and participated in two-week fellowships at organizations such as Oregon Public Broadcasting and the New England Center for Investigative Reporting.

Upcoming:

- Program alumni plan a follow-on conference in Moldova, February 2016, focused on tools of digital communication and digital entrepreneurship, including past DCN participants, American host companies, and additional DCN members.
- A second U.S. exchange program will run April 10 – May 7. Belarus and Slovakia are added to the list of countries, and 475 applications were received for 25 program slots.

Program highlights/notable successes:

- More than 900 individuals have applied to take part in one of the two DCN exchanges, and over 1,300 individuals have signed up to be a part of the broader Digital Communication Network.
- EUR and SCA have provided \$55,000 to fund small grant projects. Applications from program alumni are received on a rolling basis. Ukrainian DCN alumnae, Olga Chyzhova, submitted an application to support the development of her project “Ukrainian Prism,” a foreign policy expert network. The platform will help foreign policy experts throughout Ukraine share their varying perspectives on policy debates.

Disability Rights: A Multi-Country Program

To meet a top priority of the Special Advisor for Disability Rights, ECA, and the Department as a whole, this special exchange program on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the ADA was arranged for participants from Armenia, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka. Program activities focused on the ADA, the story of its development, provisions in the law, key components necessary for this type of legislation, implementation, enforcement and accountability.

Activities: Participants came to the U.S. for a two-week program in Washington, DC, Chicago, and San Francisco focused on increasing public awareness, advocacy around disability rights, and a comparative look at the provisions of the ADA and disability rights legislation in the countries represented in the program. The second phase of the program was a regional follow-on training workshop in Sri Lanka.

Program highlights/notable successes:

Cable 2015 Colombo 950: *“An exchange program on disability rights through ECA brought together leading Sri Lankan activists and key U.S. experts, and helped advance long-stalled disability rights law in Sri Lanka. Local activists developed a substantive program in Sri Lanka for a reciprocal visit by American subject matter expert John Wodatch in Nov 2015, the highlight of which was a commitment by the Ministry of Justice to review and push forward the draft legislation....”*

Burma Media Law

To meet a high priority of EAP, this exchange demonstrated support for the government and civil society of Burma in their efforts to create a more open media environment, including progress towards a well-crafted and well-supported set of media laws.

Activities: American experts traveled to Burma twice, and a Burmese delegation of journalists and government officials traveled to the United States. American experts provided assistance with additional aspects of the legal framework.

Program highlights/notable successes:

- Contributed to the drafting of four major new media laws in Burma
- First post-democratization delegation of government and civil society members, from Burma to visit the United States, including journalists
- First-time that over 100 government communication professionals from Burma were introduced to communication techniques in a democracy.

Economic Development Between Serbia and Kosovo

To meet a EUR priority, this program supported historic progress toward reconciliation and cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo by increasing communication between the two countries and strengthening economic capacity between communities-within and across national borders.

Activities: A delegation from both countries came to the U.S. for intensive programming. U.S. experts who hosted the Serbian and Kosovar participants traveled to the region for follow-up programming.

Program highlights/notable successes:

- Three joint projects for tourism development between Kosovo and Serbia were created
- Archeological digitalization projects for two sites in Serbia (Justiniana Prima and Nis), with consideration of Roman sites in Kosovo (mainly Ulpiana) are planned.